

Application No.: 10/785,410

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

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Please amend the claims as follows:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A document structure inspection method comprising the steps of:

conducting a first inspection on an individual element name basis to determine whether a structured document is consistent with a corresponding first document structure definition written in a document structure definition language;

in the case that an inconsistency occurs during the first inspection, suspending the first inspection and searching a document structure alteration rule library that is a collection of a plurality of document structure alteration rules for an applicable document structure alteration rule based on an inconsistent element name that appears in the structured document;

wherein said document structure alteration rule sets a [[name]] type indicating "add" or "replace," an applied definition, an operation element and a relevant document structure definition of a second document structure definition ~~to replace therewith and a name of a second document structure definition that is to be added,~~ the type indicating "add" designates an element to be added in the second document structure definition and the type indicating "replace" designates an element to be replaced in the second document structure definition corresponding to the inconsistent element name;

conducting a second inspection on an individual element name basis by use of [[a]] the second document structure definition corresponding to the inconsistent element name in [[a]] the document structure alteration rule found through the search; and

Application No.: 10/785,410

when the second inspection has reached the end of the second document structure definition, resuming the first inspection from the inconsistent element of the first document structure definition if the type of the used second document structure definition is "add" or from an inspection position next to the inconsistent element of the first document structure definition; depending on whether the used second document structure definition is one to be added or one to replace therewith, respectively; if the type of the used second document structure definition is "replace."

17. (Currently amended) A document structure inspection apparatus, comprising:
means for conducting a first inspection on an individual element name basis to determine whether a structured document is consistent with a corresponding first document structure definition written in a document structure definition language;

means for suspending the first inspection, in the case that an inconsistency occurs during the first inspection, and searching a document structure alteration rule library that is a collection of a plurality of document structure alteration rules for an applicable document structure alteration rule based on an inconsistent element name that appears in the structured document;

wherein said document structure alteration rule sets a [[name]] type indicating "add" or "replace," an applied definition, an operation element and a relevant document structure definition of a second document structure definition to replace therewith and a name of a second document structure definition that is to be added, the type indicating "add" designates an element to be added in the second document structure definition and the type indicating "replace" designates an element to be replaced in the second document structure definition corresponding to the inconsistent element name;

Application No.: 10/785,410

means for conducting a second inspection on an individual element name basis by use of
[[a]] the second document structure definition corresponding to the inconsistent element name in
[[a]] the document structure alteration rule found through the search; and

means for resuming the first inspection, when the second inspection has reached the end
of the second document structure definition, from the inconsistent element of the first document
structure definition if the type of the used second document structure definition is "add" or from
an inspection position next to the inconsistent element of the first document structure definition;
~~depending on whether the used second document structure definition is one to be added or one to~~
~~replace therewith, respectively. if the type of the used second document structure definition is~~
"replace."

18. (Currently amended) A program for causing a computer to implement the
functions of:

conducting a first inspection on an individual element name basis to determine whether a
structured document is consistent with a corresponding first document structure definition
written in a document structure definition language;

in the case that an inconsistency occurs during the first inspection, suspending the first
inspection and searching a document structure alteration rule library that is a collection of a
plurality of document structure alteration rules for an applicable document structure alteration
rule based on an inconsistent element name that appears in the structured document;

wherein said document structure alteration rule sets a [[name]] type indicating "add" or
"replace," an applied definition, an operation element and a relevant document structure
definition of a second document structure definition ~~to replace therewith and a name of a second~~

Application No.: 10/785,410

~~document structure definition that is to be added, the type indicating "add" designates an element to be added in the second document structure definition and the type indicating "replace" designates an element to be replaced in the second document structure definition corresponding to the inconsistent element name;~~

conducting a second inspection on an individual element name basis by use of ~~[[a]]~~ the second document structure definition corresponding to the inconsistent element name in ~~[[a]]~~ the document structure alteration rule found through the search; and

when the second inspection has reached the end of the second document structure definition, resuming the first inspection from the inconsistent element of the first document structure definition if the type of the used second document structure definition is "add" or from an inspection position next to the inconsistent element of the first document structure definition ; depending on whether the used second document structure definition is one to be added or one to replace therewith, respectively. if the type of the used second document structure definition is "replace."

19-21. (Canceled)